

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007

The International Bridge Commission met at the above place and date.

Item 1: Chair Tanny Berg called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Present were:

Tanny Berg, Chair – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)
Mike Dipp, Vice-Chair - Mayor John Cook's Appointee
Gerardo Camacho, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)
Victor M. Aguirre, D-5 (Rep. Presi Ortega)
Mike Breitinger, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)
Saul Frank, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)

OTHERS PRESENT

Roberta B. Cross, Assistant City Attorney
Ernesto Rodriguez, Assistant City Attorney
Ray J. Mendoza, Street Department / Bridges & Meters Division
Richard Bristol, Street Department
Christine Bueno, Secretary Street/Bridges
Edward Nunez, Street Department
Jaime Velasquez, El Paso Police Department
Daniel Fuentes, El Paso Police Department

ABSENT

Vacancy - D-2
Daniel Barnes, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)
Blanca Dominguez, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin, Jr.)
Daryl W. Cole, Streets Director, Street Department

AGENDA

Item 2: Motion made by Mr. Breitinger, seconded by Mr. Camacho and carried to approve the Minutes for the meeting of Tuesday, February 28, 2007.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Camacho, Mr. Aguirre, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Frank.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Barnes, Ms. Dominguez

All were in agreement to move up Item No. 6 for a quick discussion.

Item 6. Discussion on Taxi Detail Issues at International Crossings in El Paso Region

Mr. Aguirre requested a discussion on putting up a taxi stand at the Bridge of the Americas. Mr. Berg recommended that if any taxi company is interested they should bring a proposal for the Commission to review, with exact location for the stand, and that they be present at the next meeting to make a presentation. Mr. Breitingner suggested that we limit the presentations to three minutes, and to check with the Texas Department of Transportation as they may already have plans for the taxi companies.

The taxi companies can be contacted through the Taxi Detail for notice of the next scheduled meeting on April 17. If they have any questions they may contact Mr. Ray Mendoza at 858-3842.

Item 3. Discussion and Action on Bridge Management Report

Mr. Mendoza reported that he was part of a delegation to Washington in February and that he made a presentation to the Border Trade Alliance and also visited with several of the congressmen present. He made a presentation before David Weinstein, Assistant to the Commissioner for the GSA Administration in Washington, which included information on the bridges that the City operates, and information on the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA). The presentation was well received. Mr. Mendoza showed the presentation made in Washington to the Bridge Commissioners, and Mr. Berg requested that he give a hard copy of the presentation to all the Commissioners.

Richard Bristol reported that as part of the City's legislative agenda for Washington, included was our request for funding for the new crossing between BOTA and Zaragoza, as well as for the expansion of the Zaragoza Bridge. Again Mr. Berg asked that they provide a copy of the management report for each Commissioner.

Item 4: Discussion on Bridge Fund Debt Service and Operating Budget.

Mr. Bristol gave a slide presentation on the FY-2007 Bridge Budget.

The presentation included figures on the outstanding debt on the SIB Loan, and figures on the pending SIB loan. Mr. Berg asked for a breakdown of where the \$12 million will be spent on the new loan, and also requested hard copies of the presentation made by Mr. Bristol.

Mr. Berg made a statement that this Commission was established on the fact that the Commission wanted a small allocation from the net revenues, specific to security on the bridge. He also stated that one of the challenges as a Commission is to address these issues and come up with something to resolve them.

Mr. Mendoza at this time stated that security for the public has been increased at both bridges, Stanton and PDN, using a private security company.

Item 5: Discussion on Current and Future Ownership of International Ports of Entry in El Paso Region.

Mr. Berg stated that there is a delegation of citizens looking at the option of purchasing the bridge from the City of El Paso, and if that were to happen, City Council may possibly relegate to this Commission the task of evaluating or contemplating whether this would be a positive or negative option. A delegation of these individuals is going to Detroit April 30 to look at the private ownership of the bridge in Detroit between Detroit and Canada. They will be working with the company who has already come to El Paso to look at the possibility of privatizing or owning the bridge, or even managing the bridge. Mr. Berg has asked Mr. Breitingner to be a part of that delegation.

Mr. Berg asked that this same issue, the potential future ownership of the bridge, be on next meeting's agenda.

Also for the next agenda, and as a recurring item monthly for discussion and/or action, the evolving process of the PDN Head House project.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Mr. Breitingner and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. Next meeting April 17.

Approved as to form:

Rosemary G. Borrego

Department Head / **Board Secretary**